

REMARKS

The application included claims 38-57 before entering this amendment.

The applicants amend claims 38-57.

The application includes claims 38-57 after entering this amendment.

The applicants do not add new matter and respectfully request reconsideration.

Interview Summary

The applicants thank examiner Anwari for participating in a telephonic interview on 12/20/2011 to discuss the claim rejections and the references cited in the latest office action. Examiner Anwari provided suggestions for amending the claims that are likely to lead to allowance. The applicants and examiner Anwari, however, did not reach agreement on allowance.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The examiner rejected claims 38-57 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ng (patent 6640301) in view of Shaikh (patent 7035830). The applicants respectfully traverse the rejections at least for the reasons that follow and particularly as they have amended the claims.

Independent claim 38 recites *wherein the control mark includes an encrypted check sum configured to self-authenticate or self-validate the electronic document*. Independent claim 48 includes similar language. Neither Ng nor Shaikh disclose these features. Although Ng discloses a checksum stored in checksum field 34, it does not disclose *an encrypted check sum configured to self-authenticate or self-validate* the email, as it must to disclose the claims. Shaikh's electronic stamp serves only to indicate that the document is accepted or rejected. Shaikh's electronic stamp does not include *an encrypted check sum configured to self-authenticate or self-validate the electronic document* as recited.

Independent claim 38 further recites *making a determination that the electronic document has been changed in response to detecting the control mark in the electronic contained in the at least one packet and blocking access to the electronic document in response to the determination*. Independent claim 48 includes similar language. Neither Ng nor Shaikh disclose these features as acknowledged by examiner Anwari during the telephonic interview of 12/21/2011.

CONCLUSION

The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 38-57. The applicants encourage the examiner to call if a conference would further prosecution.

Customer No. 73552

Respectfully submitted,

STOLOWITZ FORD COWGER LLP



Graciela G. Cowger
Reg. No. 42,444

STOLOWITZ FORD COWGER LLP
621 SW Morrison Street, Suite 600
Portland, OR 97205
(503) 224-2170